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DEPT FOR EAP/PD AND EAP/TC

FROM AIT KAOHSIUNG BRANCH OFFICE

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TAGS: [SNAR](#) [TW](#) [KS](#) [KCRM](#)

SUBJECT: Police Raids Human Trafficking Ring in Southern Taiwan

¶1. (U) Working on a tip, on April 19 the Kaohsiung criminal police raided a human trafficking ring that had arranged for Chinese women to enter into Taiwan by means of sham marriages. The "brides" were actually coming to work in the sex trade. The police arrested the head of the trafficking ring, Wu Hong-meng (Chinese Telegraph code 0702 7703 1322), Wu's Chinese wife, five other members of the trafficking ring, and seven PRC women who had been brought to Taiwan by the ring.

¶2. (SBU) Kaohsiung Police had been conducting surveillance on Wu and his organization since December of last year. According to the police, the seven Chinese women entered sham marriages with Taiwanese men and came to Taiwan in late 2005 and early 2006. After their arrest, the seven Chinese women told the Police that they were aware before they came to Taiwan that they were destined for the sex trade. According to the police, Wu has brought at least twenty other PRC women to Taiwan to engage in prostitution. Local Police suspect that Wu is cooperating with mainland Chinese gangsters to run the trafficking ring.

¶3. (SBU) Prosecutor Wu Hsieh-chan said that the "husbands" would be charged with "uttering a false public document," which carries a maximum penalty of seven years imprisonment. Due to their cooperation, the women will not likely be prosecuted for prostitution, but rather processed for deportation.

¶4. (SBU) Comment. Charging the "husbands" under the public document statutes is an important departure from previous practice. Generally, charges are filed under the marriage statutes, which carry a maximum penalty of not more than three years. Since all sentences of three years or less are converted to fines, usually at the rate of one thousand NT Dollars (U.S. \$31.75) per year, the charges do little to deter fraudulent marriages. Using the public document charge, perpetrators face the prospect of jail time, which may help Taiwan authorities get a handle on the problem. End Comment.

Thiele

Young